This Act is applicable only to Union Territories and since slum in a State subject, every state is covered by its own Slum Improvement Act.

(d) Does not arise, Sir.

Schemes for Resettlement of Slum Dwellers

3208. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state the details of the schemes that are being formulated for the resettlement of slum dwellers ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : Presently the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) which was introduced in August, 1996 to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States/UTs for the development of urban slums is under imlementation. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care, social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity and child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision for shelter upgradation.

A draft National Slum Policy has been prepared to address the problem of holistic development of slums. The policy embodies the core principle that households in all urban informal settlements should have access to certain basic minimum services irrespective of land tenure or occupancy status. The main objectives are to create awareness amongst the Public and Government to bring about the integration of the settlements and the communities residing within them into the urban areas as a whole. To strengthen the legal and policy framework to facilitate the process of slum development and improvement on a sustainable basis. And lastly to establish a framework for involving all stakeholders for the efficient and smooth implementation of Policy objectives. The draft Policy have been sent to all States for their comments.

Census to Assess Urban Poor

3209. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census has been undertaken to assess the extent of urban poor all over the country and the problem faced by them;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the result of various schemes launched for the urban poor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to contain migration from rural areas to urban areas ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) So far as Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned no census survey has been undertaken. However,Planning Commission had provided a statement on 'Estimate of Poverty' (1993-94) according to which number of persons below poverty line in Urban Areas is 763.37 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir. This Ministry has launched a Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY) only with effect from 01-12-97, as yet no assessment has been made.

(c) Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment had reported that they are implementing the programme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) aimed at creating Self-employment opportunities for the rural poor. Further in order to create wage employment opportunities in the rural areas, that Ministry implements the Employment Assurance Scheme.

The SGSY was launched with effect from 1st April, 1999. SGSY is conceived as a holistic programme of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment *viz.* Organisation of the rural poor into self-help groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing. Assistance is provided to rural poor families below proverty line through a mix of bank credit and subsidy from Government.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on 2nd October, 1993 for implementation in selected blocks. Over the years scheme was extended to all the blocks of the country. At present, all the districts of the country are covered under the scheme. The primary objective of the EAS is creation of additional wage employment opportunities during the lean agricultural season through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and sustained employment and development.

It is expected that such steps in rural areas will discourage migration to urban areas.